









SPIRI

EIGHT BIG STORIES IN THIS EXCITING ISSUE











OUR COVER
Ken Kelly and Will Eigner capture the
mood of a tense city, as THE SPIRIT
walks into a deadly trap set by his
arch enemy. The Octopus, "Showdown!"

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CONTENTS ISSUE NO. 6 FEBRUARY 1975

- SHOWDOWN THE SPIRIT stalks an elusive underworld figure, cornering him in an abandoned warehouse! But The Octopus has a deadly surprise . . . a live hand grenade!
- THE WEDDING The romance between Bleak and Sparrow Fallon is quashed at the altar by the appearance of Bleak's first wife, Rosie. Is our Bleak a bigamist?
- THE JOB Family man Bleak, desperate with unremitting poverty, accepts a dangerous but lucrative position as human guinea pig in the lab of a psychopathic scientist!
- THE LAMP A first wish from Aladdin's lamp brought knowledge; a second wish, wealth. The Genie guaranteed death to those who tried a third. One daring thief obliged!
- GLOE The plight of the artist is difficult, especially when he's been trapped in a dark cave for many centuries. Meet Glob, a Neanderthal with the soul of a Rembrandt!
- THE WINNAH The two Gritt brothers were boxers. Both were Champs. It was inevitable that they would eventually clash in the ring... where one would loose his life!
 - WILD RICE She was beautiful, rich. Had everything doting parents could buy. But she was tired of being given things, so she began to take...money, jewelry & lives!
- TAXES & THE SPIRIT The dead don't pay taxes. But to prove he is legally dead, THE SPIRIT must reveal his true identity to the I.R.S. or suffer consequences!

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efore publication of the Warren SPIRIT magazine I'd never seen any of Will Eisner's work. I think it is fantastic, fascinating, and the best in comics. But I'm a bit troubled. I'd like to know where the SPIRIT came from. How about printing the origin story . . . in color.

> **PAUL DARAUNIUS** Berkeley, Calif.

Many readers have requested a retelling of THE SPIRIT's debut tale, Paul. A condensed version was told in an interview with THE SPIRIT in issue #3. But for readers who want more, we've a special treat planned for our eighth issue: a look into THE SPIRIT/Denny Colt's childhood.

"I have just read THE SPIRIT and I'm hooked!"

There is absolutely no need to comment upon Will Eisner's work. It is comic legend, and seemingly timeless. If only the Warren books reprinted the strips in chronological order but that's a small matter,

The only important matter can think to write about, is he controversy brewing in the controversy brewing your letters column: the Ebo-

ny "problem."

Upon first reading his initial letter to you, branding the character Ebony a parody branding of a black man, I considered William Williams "hypersensitive." I, after all, don't complain about stereotyped Irish cops. On the other hand, the Irish haven't faced real physical racial violence, at least, not in this century. So may-be I can't call Mr. Williams over sensitive. I do, however, believe he's wrong.

I can cite instances or make extensive debate, but why waste time. Simply by reprinting a single page from the Kitchen Sink underground SPIRIT comic, any argument be terminated

Guess which one?

MATTHEW D. O'BANNON Louisville, Ky.

We've guessed, Matt. And you'll find the reprinted art in a future maga-zine. We feel that it sort of lets Ebony speak for himself.

been following THE SPIRIT's adventures since his first issue and one of the attractions that keeps me com-ing back is the beauty and wit of Will Eisner's women. Sometimes it's difficult to

understand how such raving beauties can have such wicked and cunning minds.

Is there any chance of an all female foe issue of THE SPIR-

IT in the future?

GREG HENDRICKS Detroit, Mich.

Next issue is the first of many "Special" SPIRIT issues to come, Greg. It is devoted entirely to Ebony, THE SPIRIT's faithful sidekick. Follows ing that, we've a "special" issue that has been in the works for over a year now . . . featuring the most popular of THE SPIRIT's feminine adver-

The date is around Christmas '73. I received a book entitled "The Great Comic Book Heroes." Of course, I looked at the stories before reading the chapters that were written. The last was something called THE SPIRIT, I had never heard of this guy before. I read every story but his. Then I got "Volume Two of The History of Comics." But I

just never got around to reading the last chapter on THE SPIRIT!

At a comics convention in early January at the Biltmore Hotel in New York, I heard fans raving about this SPIRIT guy. So I read the chapters on him in Jim Steranko and Jules Feiffer's books, and the sto-ries in each. Wow!

Suddenly the stories made sense! I instantly knew who THE SPIRIT was...a crime fighter for the meek and small the "little people's" cham-

Then I found THE SPIRIT #1. a Warren magazine. read a couple of stories. Much better than Feiffer's choice. As good or better than Steranko's! And the best color story lever saw! I just couldn't find words. I picked up issue #2. Even better! And then SPIRIT #3. Classics! Classics! A standing ovation!

I've now become a confirmed SPIRIT freak! I've read thirty-four different SPIRIT stories this year and the year isn't up yet. I'm hooked! I've read stories with Ellen Dolan. Powder Pouf, Sparrow Fallon, Castanet, Wisp O'Smoke, P'Gell and Pantha Stalk, Not bad for thirty-four stories in seven months, huh?

But somehow I've got a feeling the best is yet to come.

> JEFF KROLL Scotch Plains, N.J.

Will Eisner, I think you are a fine artist and storyteller. However, this is 1974, not 1940. Your old-time SPIRIT plots are getting thin. I'm tired of this nostalgia and backto-the-past hoopla. If THE SPIRIT is truly a good charac-ter, he should be able to survive in 1974. If it's not asking too much, why don't you revise your already overworked stories into a more modern setting.

> JAMES SPIEGELMIRE Queens, N.Y.

I've only been reading THE SPIRIT for the last few issues. What I can't understand is why Will Eisner isn't a mil-lionaire? His stories are the greatest!

Alas, although he was recognized for his true genius in his early years, most younger comics readers had never heard of Will Eisner's SPIR-IT. Hopefully, the reprinting of stories in Warren's fine magazines will again bring Eisner the true recognition he so justly deserves.

Along with all other new SPIRIT fans, I thank you... for a rebirth of a genius, and his brainchild!

> ADAM SANGER White Plains, N.Y.

After becoming acquainted with the far-famed original Captain Marvel, it was my personal opinion that there had never been a greater comic book hero. When I heard that there was a still better. more beloved hero available. I refused to believe it. But it's true! Since I'm writing to his magazine, I need not tell you who that hero is!

And the fourth issue of the magazine was even better than the first three. "Life Below" was certainly worth printing, "Mr. McDool" and the "Return of Silk Satin" were enough to build a SPIR-IT novel around (need 1 say hint, hint)! "Spirit of '76" was excellent. I love stories that get the hero out of costume. 'Elevator" was wonderful. I was touched when Ebony put his arms around the person he thought was THE SPIRIT. I disliked "Vino Red." It was too complicated. "Guilty Gun" was an okay story. But I just can't muster the right words to describe "Flaxen Weaver." It was good, but . . .? It was good, but . .

Despite the criticism, I'd like to thank you for introduc-ing me to THE SPIRIT. He is indeed "The World's Great-est Comic Character!"

> MIKE ACORD Wooster, Ohio



"Art and plots, the greatest!"

The first four issues of THE SPIRIT were sensational! The art and plots are the most original in comics. I especially liked the two-part "Powder Pouf" story in issue #2. Could we see more two-part stories like this?

STEVE VILTOFT Minneapolis, Minn.

Each issue we'll try to present at least one of the best available SPIRIT two-part classics. This issue: a continuation of the "Powder Pouf" story mentioned above, featuring Bleak and his new bride!

What William Williams and his fellow "Ebony-is-an-insult-to-the-Black-man" cultists fail to realize is that many of the great fictional characters throughout literature have had sidekicks ("foils," if you will) whose personalities have purposely been contrasted with that of the hero, Dr. Watson (Sherlock Holmes), In-spector Richard Queen (Ellery Queen), Paul Drake (Perry Mason), and Sancho Panza (Don Quixote) are all characters with great dignity who have, for years, remained in the shadow of the hero in order that they, and the hero, might achieve realistic characterizations

THE SPIRIT and Ebony White are a magnificent team, well worthy to stand beside any of the above-mentioned

duos.

Will Eisner broke what was perhaps the most firmly-entrenched ground in all comicdom when, in 1940, he made THE SPIRIT's sidekick Black instead of a safe WASP, giving, for the first time, a Black character a major role in an adventure strip. To me (a caucasian), Ebony has always been an individual of great warmth, humanity and cour-

Off the subject of Ebony, I found that the fifth issue of THE SPIRIT is the finest yet. All of the main characters (THE SPIRIT, Ebony, Dolan, Ellen) were presented, allowing unfamiliar readers of the strip to place the players within it. As a collector, I would like to see the stories reprinted in chronological order, perhaps including the near-legendary sequence in which THE SPIRIT was blinded. Warren's SPIRIT is a near-perfect magazine! The only thing more I could ask for would be new stories. I But having THE SPIRIT back in a magazine of his own is literally a dream come true.

MIKE W. BARR Akron, Ohio On careful perusal of the latest SPIRIT from Warren, I am astounded to discover how much Will Eisner's art and Pogo cartoonist Walt Kelly's resemble each other. There are bits of panels I certainly couldn't discriminate between on the matter of creatorship. I hope this observation doesn't displease Mr. Eisner. I love both THE SPIRIT and Pogo so much.

BETSY CURTIS Saegertown, Penn.

I must say that I like Will Eisner's older work much better than the stuff he's been turning out lately. His four books on cooking, plants, trivia and astrology just cannot compare with his classic SPIR-IT strip. In his recent books, Eisner's art is more cartooning and loss atticties.

ing and less artistic.

Eisner's work is great in the Warren books though. I especially enjoy his conversations with the characters. But I would like to see how other artists draw THE SPIRIT. Is there any chance of Rich Corben, Wally Wood, Berni Wrightson or Neal Adams drawing a SPIRIT story? How about Alex Toth? He would capture the mood of the character perfectly. These are my all-time favorite artists, and I'd like to see them in Warren's SPIRIT magazine.

ROGER MAY San Francisco, Calif.

Would you settle for their work in the OTHER Warren magazines, Roger?

I have a number of suggestions for THE SPIRIT that I feel would improve an already largely successful magazine.

largely successful magazine.
Seriously consider the suggestion that other artists besides Will Eisner draw THE SPIRIT. I would love to see Richard Corben's art embellish an already fine character. And I'm sure if you allowed word to get out, many artists would be flattered to add their interpretation to Eisner's classic creation.

Also, please start publishing new stories. I can't believe Eisner is out of fresh ideas. I know he still draws as well as ever. It really is quite boring reading tales that are obviously dated in attitude, scenery and personal appearances.

There is so much crime and dirty doings going on today, that there is no dearth of inspiration. You could easily update Denny Colt into the 70's without losing any of the magic he possesses. Think on

GARY KIMBER Ontario, Canada



Because I had never seen the THE SPIRIT before, I would like to thank Will Eisner and Jim Warren for bringing us his adventures in a Warren magazine. Each story is a masterpiece. Each cover is fantastic. I especially liked the covers of issues #3 and #4.

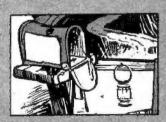
ALAN NORDMARK Dalton, Penn. I don't see what William Williams has against Ebony! Why doesn't he complain about Captain Marvel's Steamboat Willie, about the countless Blacks (or Jews, Russians, French, etc.) that were stereotyped in the 40's comics, or the movies that featured lampooned Blacks.

RORY GALLAGHER Oakland, Calif.

IT GETS AWFULLY LONELY AND SPOOKY IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY!

Even to a big, tough brute like THE SPIRIT, Wildwood Cemetery can seem like a spooky place at night. Help a lonely SPIRIT. Write to:

THE SPIRIT'S DEAD LETTERS c/o Warren Publishing Co. 145 East 32nd Street New York, N.Y. 10016











































































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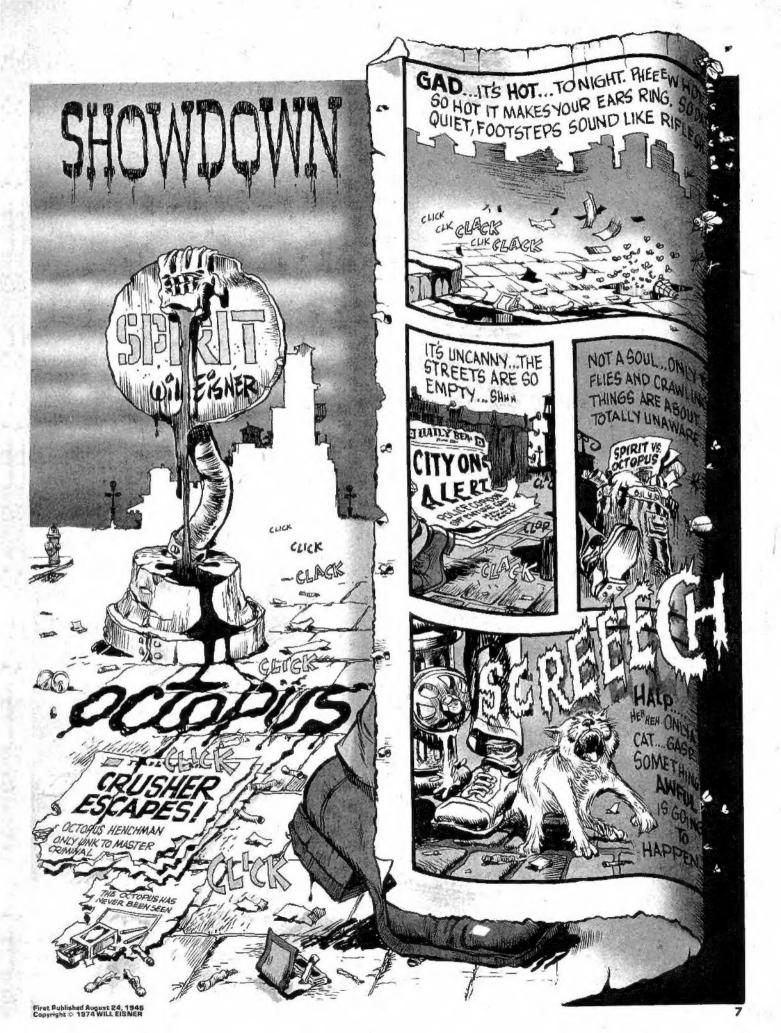




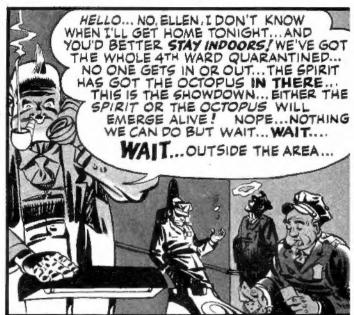
Vampi is all woman! You can't own part of her! Same with her mags! Bet you can't buy just one!

Issue after issue filled with the fiery adventures of the delicious Draculonne. Amazing tales of demoniacal terror brought to you by the comic magazine greats! Written by Archie Goodwin, Bill DuBay, Flaxman Lowe, Doug Moench. Art by Jeff Jones, Berni Wrightson, Esteban Maroto, Felix Mas, Isidro Mones. And many, many more. Incredible covers by the incomperable Frank Frazetta, Sanjulian, Ken Kelly. Great characters! The delectable Fleur, fierce Luana, ferocious Pantha. Many issues with a full-color section, hand separated for highest

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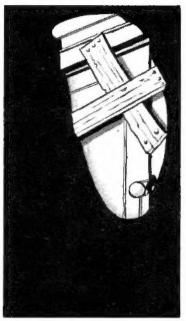


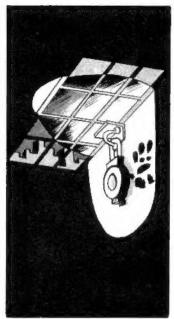


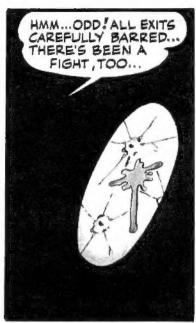


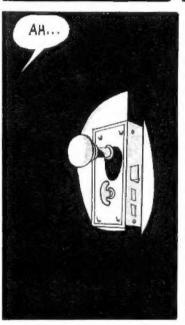


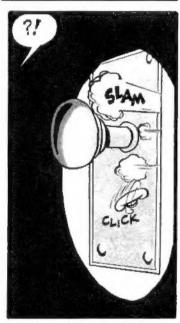




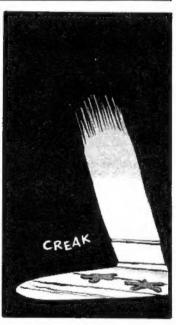








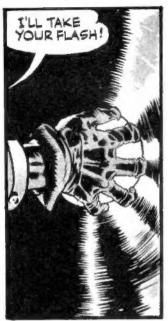


























































































































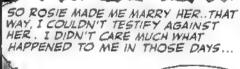




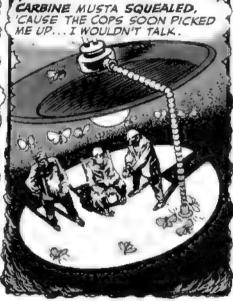


















































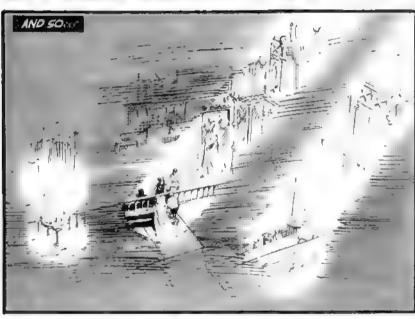










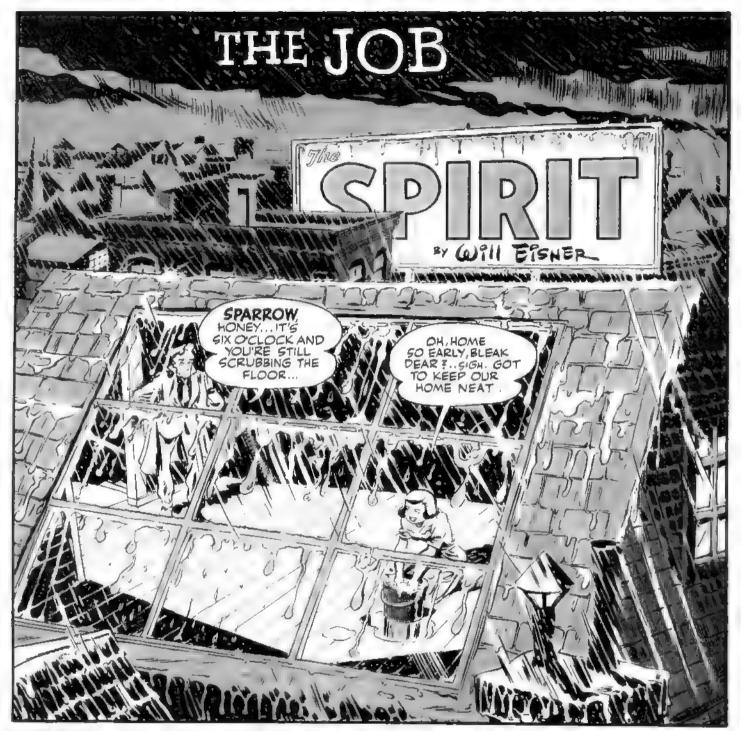












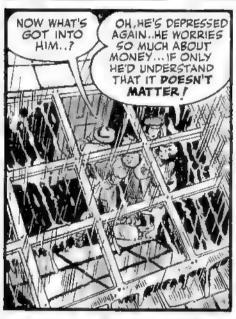




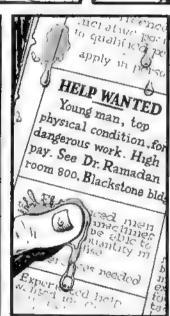










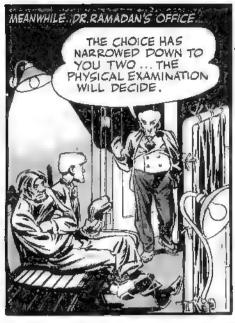




















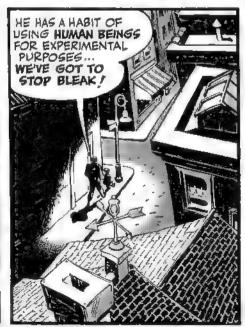














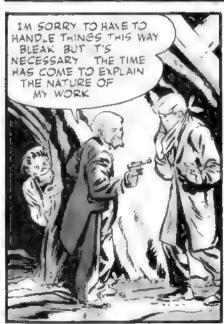






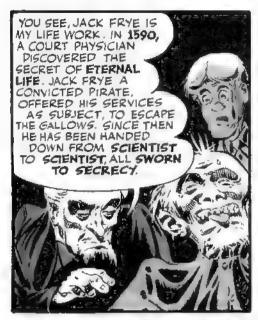










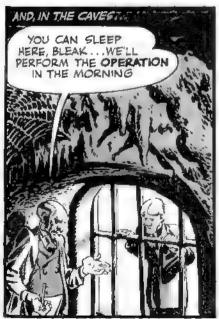




















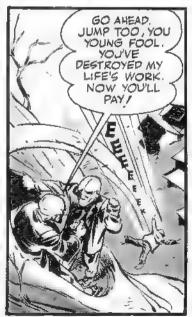


































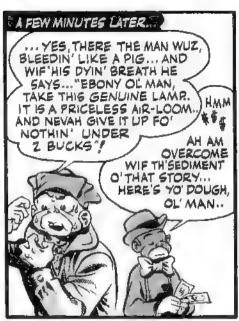


















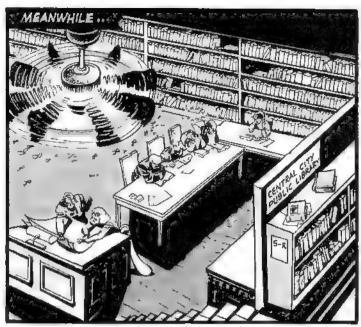










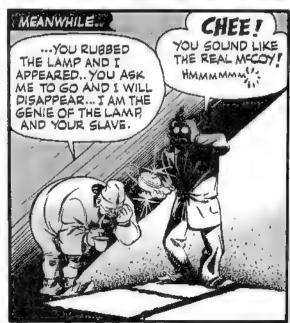
























































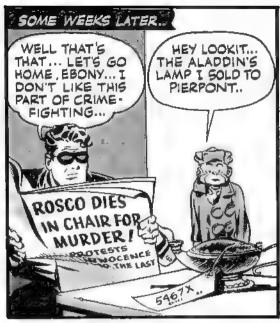






















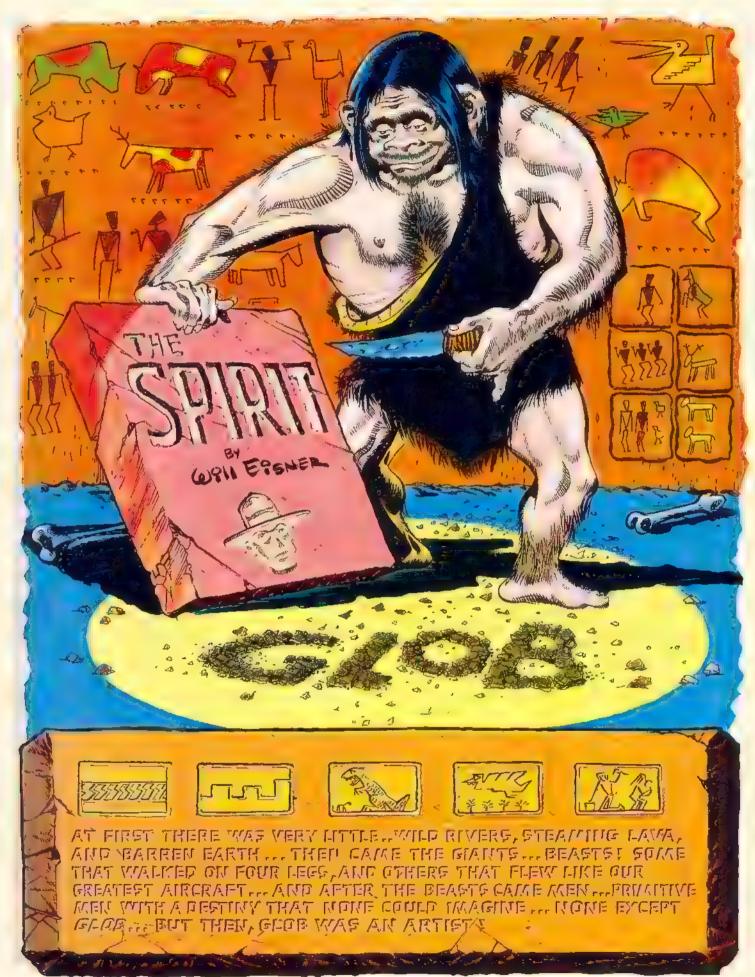












YES... GLOB WAS NO RUN-OF-THE-MILL CAVEMAN...FOR HIS GREAT IMAGINATION MADE HIM SUSPECT IN THE EYES OF HIS FELLOWS... AND, AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEFALLEN MEN WHO THINK BEYOND THEIR TIME, HE WAS SCORNED, AND HE WAS DRIVEN BACK INTO THE CAVES...



HERE A SUDDEN TREMOR OF THE EARTH CAUSED A ROCK SLIDE, TRAPPING GLOB ... AND SO, MAROONED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, ALONE, HE SAT DOWN TO WRITE A BOOK .. (THIS ALSO IS COMMON AMONG POLITICAL PRISONERS EVEN IN OUR TIMES...)



3 MILLION YEARS LATER ...





















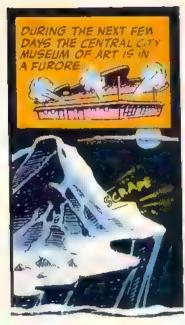




































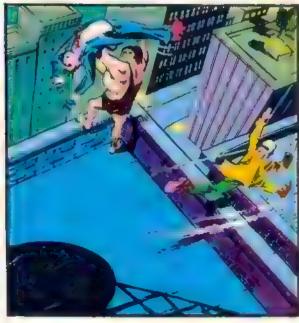




















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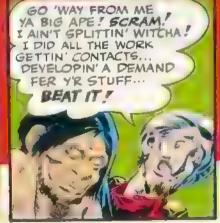




























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THE VILLAGE

















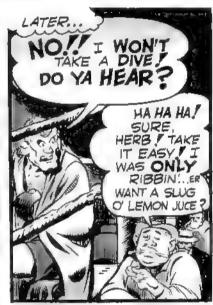












































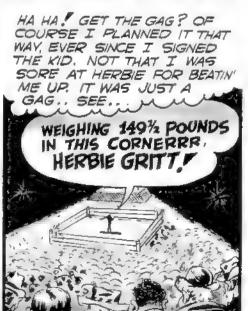




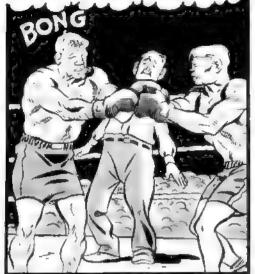




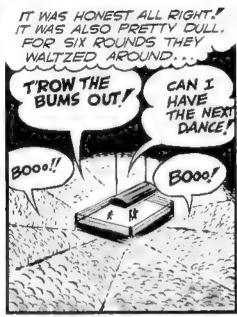




HERBIE DIDN'T LOOK TOO GOOD!" HE HAD AGED A LOT.













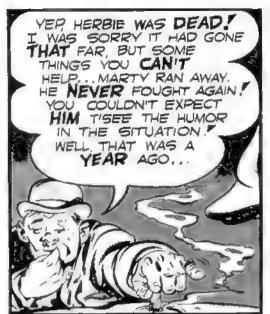




























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WILL EISNER DELUXE 10"x14" REPRINT BOOK

Here it is! A giant 32 page 10"x 14" Spirit Coloring Book, featuring some of the most memorable splash pages from all-time-great comic strips. Each page is reprinted on heavy quality paper and next to each is a synopsis of the story it appeared in and the date it was first published. Featuring such beauties as Ellen Dolan, Olge Bustle and the notorious P'Gel!! A must for all Spirit fans! #21160/\$2.50.



SPIRIT POSTER

FULL COLOR! LARGE 2' x 3'

Here's the perfect addition to any wall! A full color poster of the World's Greatest Super-Hero. Drawn by The Spirit's creator, the great Will Eisner, this vibrant pin-up is a big 2 feet by 3 feet. Poster has a matte finish, is printed on heavy, high quality paper, and is a must for fans! #2949/\$2.00.

SPIRIT CLASSICS-REPRINTS OF VINTAGE SPIRIT STORIES

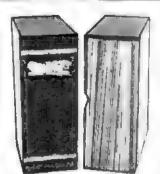
SPIRIT BAG w1 - June to August 1940. The eerie origin of that graveyard gumshoe THE SPIRIT. He meets mugs, vamps, a Nazi robot, & The Killer Clown, and downs 'em all with his knucks! Bonus: each story has a special note by Wall Eisner reminiscing on the strip's creation. #2112 SPIRIT BAG #1/\$4.25

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ith this terrible choking fire within her, she grew up .. wild . unmanageable. unable to explain the trapped feeling that throttled her. But the web of circumstance kept closing in on the strange lonely girl. now called Wild Rice



o at intervals she would try to escape. At first she attempted to run off .. but she was caught. Then she tried stealing, but her father's money covered her. Sometimes the feeling" left her, and she appeared sweet ... but soon the madness would return ... like the tide.



t last...by the time she was 24 years old, the inner fires seemed to subside... and though they lay like glowing coals within her, she surrendered. Her father arranged a profitable marriage and a wedding day was set



n the evening of the reception, however, the slumbering volcano burst within her, and the force of it sent her flying from the dance .. propelled her from her husband's arms and upstairs to her room













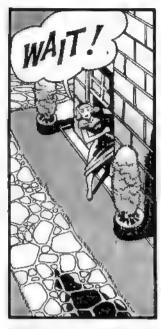




















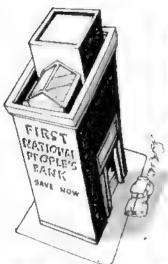








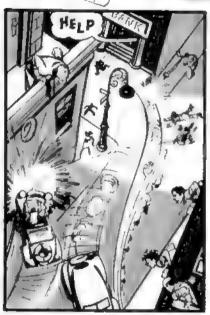






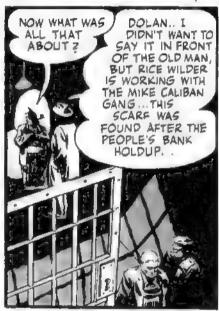


















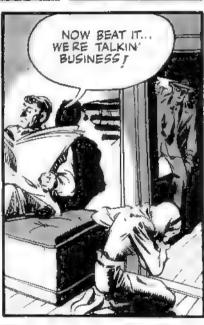




















































...And they say down at headquarters...Wild Rice died with a strange pleased smile on her lips... It was a thing no one seemed able to explain ... except perhaps the Spirit ... and he said they wouldn't understand



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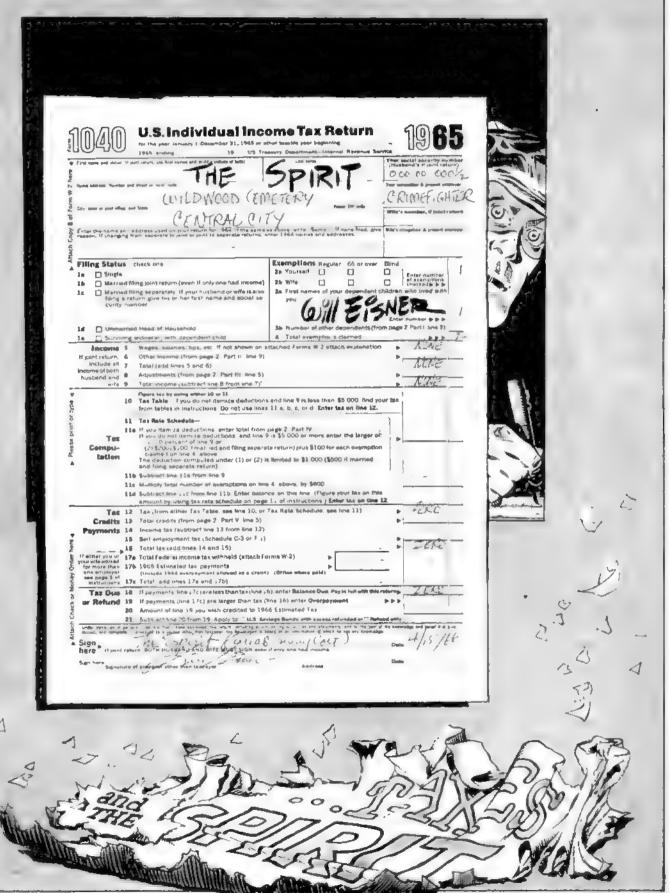


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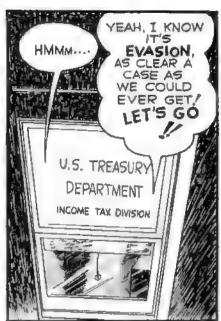
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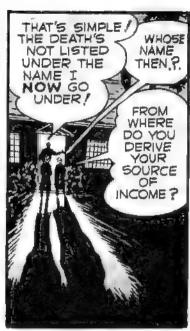


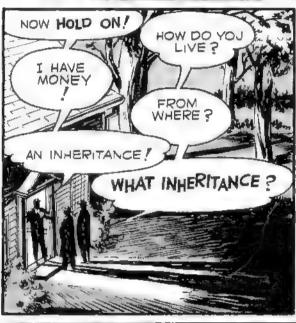












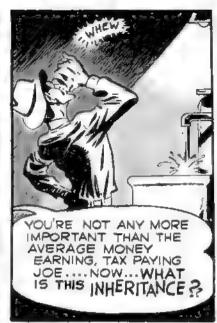






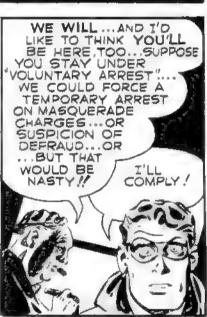












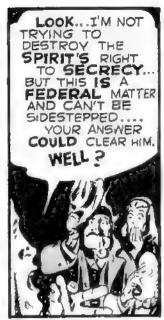






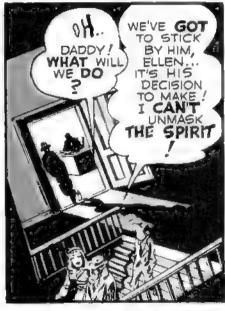


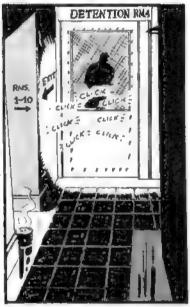






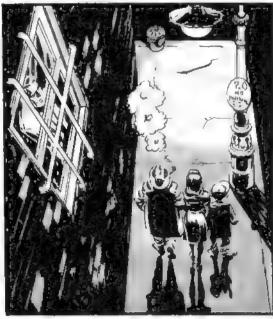


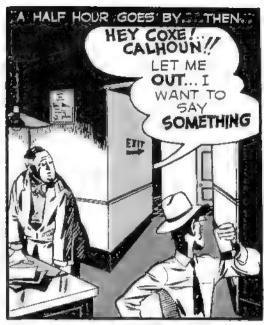




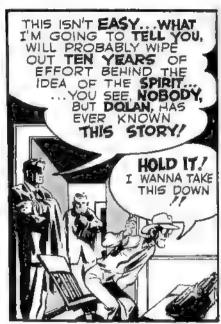
























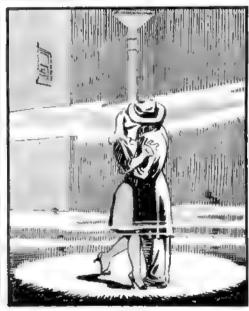






















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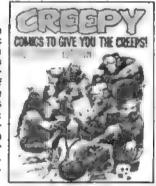
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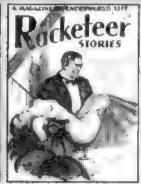




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'Three Forthe
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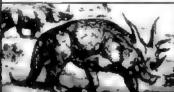
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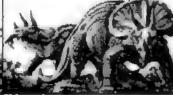
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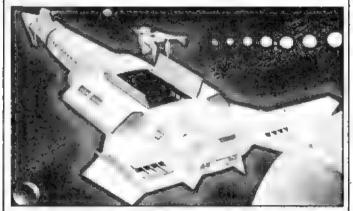
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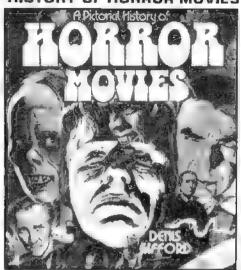




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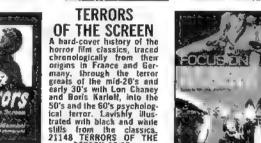
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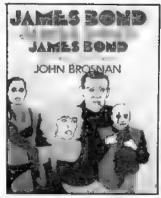
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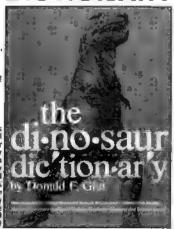
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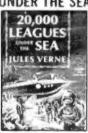
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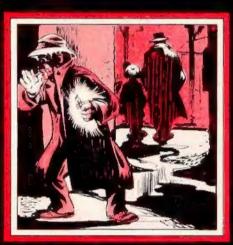
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